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WASHINGTON, D. C.-Riggs House, Exhibit House, Fairfax Hotel, Willard Hotel.

"Judge Parker has no past to assail." And no future to worry about-happy man!

Mr. Bryan says New York and New Jersey are not needed to win. No-not by a good party.

St. Louis expects to pay \$40,000 for the Democratic convention. The fun will be worth every cent it costs.

Emperor William's career does not appear to affect him half so much as it does the European correspondents.

Bryan says "I will not talk any more." Judge Parker has not lived in vain if he has been able to teach William J. such a lesson as that.

King Edward is said to be anxious to have the Russo-Japanese war ended; so he has one thing at least in common with Nicholas II.

Indianapolis has now a population of 191,023. The next official estimate will bring her well over the 200,000 mark unless all signs fail utterly.

If General Miles gets the Prohibition nomination, does he intend to run on his army canteen record? Let us hear from him on that subject.

Bryan has gone back to the farm, where he will spend a few weeks pretending he is in Cincinnati. The only trouble is that nobody will keep up the illusion.

It is to be hoped that no unscrupulous financier will try to corner the quinine market this summer. If reports are true, there is going to be a big market for it in Panama.

St. Louis points with pride to the fact that there are fewer prisoners than usual in her jails. It is getting easier every year to get bail, "vindication" or technicalities in Missouri.

The bad roads in Korea are acting as protection to the Russians against Japanese attacks. That is no argument against the good roads movement, however. Indiana is not expecting any invasions but Hearst's.

The Russian cruiser Boyarin was struck seventy times, "but not seriously injured." This report-which comes from St. Petersburg-leads to the suspicion that the Japs were amusing themselves by throwing snow balls.

If Easter were a fixed, and not a movable feast, to-day would be Easter day. The church arranged that the celebration should always fall on Sunday, but the date of the resurrection was, many centuries ago, officially fixed at April 3.

The Supreme Court's decision against the coal trust was by a vote of 8 to 1; which beats the Northern Securities case. And every time a thing like this happens the Democrats, who demanded that it be done, get angrier and more nervous. There's no satisfying some people.

Convinced that he is a modern Cassandra, John Alexander Dowie, general overseer of Zion, old dissent Elijah, etc., has announced his wish and intention to return immediately to that dear Zion City, Wis. He is convinced that there is only one place in the world where genius is appreciated.

When General Bragg, of Wisconsin, put Grover Cleveland in nomination at the Democratic convention of 1884 he said: "I love him for the enemies he has made." Now, many Democrats are saying that Mr. Cleveland's declaration in favor of Parker has turned thousands of supporters from him. It is pretty hard lines for an ex-President when his declaration in favor of a candidate makes enemies for him.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg a day or two ago reported on the authority of Russian officers at the front that "All is quiet on the Yalu." The quietness may have been part of the secretive policy of the Japanese, or it may have been the calm that precedes a storm. Things could not have been very quiet on the south side of the Yalu while the Japanese were massing a force sufficient to enable them to control every strategic point along the river and

perhaps to invade Manchuria by crossing it. The Japs have been very successful in maintaining the aggressive and thus far have outgeneraled as well as outfought the Russians.

CONGRESS AND THE EIGHT-HOUR BILL.

For some months past the House labor committee has been giving hearings on the question of establishing an eight-hour day in all government establishments and contracts. The hearings have brought out a variety of views from manufacturers, employers, labor leaders and experts of different kinds. The demand for an eight-hour day comes from the labor unions and leaders, and they are unanimously in favor of it, while manufacturers and employers are solid against it.

Of course, Congress cannot pass a law on the subject for the different States. It can only legislate for the Territories, the District of Columbia and government establishments or contracts. The latter would include contracts for shipbuilding and many other large works. The bill before the House provides that every contract made on behalf of the United States government, or any Territory or the District of Columbia, which involves the employment of laborers or mechanics, shall contain a provision that no laborer or mechanic doing any part of the work contemplated by the contract in the employ of the contractor or of any subcontractor contracting for any part of said work shall be required or permitted to work any more than eight hours in any one calendar day upon such work; and every such contract shall stipulate a penalty for each violation of such provision in the contract of \$5 for each laborer or mechanic for every calendar day in which he shall be required or permitted to labor more than eight hours upon such work.

The government has for several years enforced the eight-hour day in its own working establishments, but this bill would extend it to all private establishments doing any kind of government work. There are several thousand such establishments that take contracts or subcontracts for such work, but they do a great deal of other work besides. The bill would compel them to make eight-hour contracts on government work, while applying a nine or ten-hour day on other work. Men could not be shifted from one job to another, and great embarrassment would ensue. Experts say the law would mean an increase of 25 per cent. in the cost of government work. Indirectly, it would increase the cost of work in all private establishments.

If the eight-hour day could be made universal, that is, applied in other countries as well as in this, there would be some justice in it, but to enforce it in the United States alone, which is the purpose and intent of the labor leaders, would put this country at a great disadvantage in competing with others for control of the world's markets. American manufacturers have spent millions and millions of dollars in developing foreign trade. To hold and extend this trade has become a matter of vital importance to them. Unless our foreign trade is extended many factories may be compelled to close. This would hurt workmen as well as employers. It would seem to be unwise for Congress to inaugurate a policy that may result in materially increasing the cost of manufacturing and in weakening our hold on foreign markets without carefully counting the cost. The question is one of great economic importance.

The long hearings pro and con which the labor committee has given have enabled it to reach a decision, and it has decided to refer the matter to Secretary of Commerce and Labor Cortelyou, with a request for a report on the following points, to be made to the committee at the next session of Congress: "What would be the additional cost to the United States under the bill on articles which it customarily obtains by contract? What damage would it inflict on the man who now supplies the government? What effect would it have on the shipbuilding industry? What effect would it have on export trade? Are laboring people willing to have taken from them the right to labor more than eight hours? What effect will it have on the agricultural interests?"

This looks like a wise disposition of the subject, at least for the present. Before taking any step in a matter so vitally affecting the manufacturing interests of the country, Congress should get all the information and light possible. The Department of Commerce and Labor has the machinery for a thorough investigation of the subject, and the work is precisely in the line for which it was created. When the report is made, the committee will be able to act intelligently, and it is to be hoped it will act solely with reference to public and national interests.

A YELLOW CANDIDATE AND A REAL ONE.

The New York Herald publishes a letter from Mr. Arthur Brisbane setting forth the transcendent qualities of William R. Hearst and his paramount claims on the presidency. Mr. Brisbane is one of the earliest discoverers of Hearst and has furnished the brains and the hot air for his boom since it was first launched. To give him due credit, he has come nearer converting a nobody into a real political factor than would have been deemed possible before the experiment was tried.

In the creed referred to he says: "The American people-like all people-are interested in personality. If they are asked to vote they want to know whom and what they are voting for. * * * There are other candidates conspicuously mentioned concerning whom the American people have any information at all? * * * Hearst is known. The entire country knows him. Every storekeeper, cab driver, lawyer, doctor-every intelligent citizen in a thousand times no. It would rend the hearts of all to see such violence done to geography. As long as England stays between Scotland and the Channel, we shall not anticipate a universal cataclysm."

A New York paper alludes to David B. Hill as a "vampire." Well, he may be "a rag and a bone," but a close examination of his picture fails to reveal any signs of the "bank of hair."

To encourage matrimony, a New York church has added a "wooing parlor." And is this, too, religion? Don't forget the wooing parlor or the goo-gooing parlor-let's have them all.

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While the past winter has been extremely fatal to bees, not all of them were killed. Every State in the Union has a Democrat who hears one buzzing about his ears.

Kuropatkin has a new and gorgeous uniform. It is likely to get soiled and mused almost any day now; and not a tailor shop for vests and vests!

A woman in Wisconsin committed suicide by a forty days' fast. They may call that fast in Wisconsin, but down here it would be considered dead slow.

The pastor of a church at Windfall, Ind., has been ordered to pay a fine of \$200 for allowing his flock to be blown off by a wind-fall of that kind?

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The two great branches of Spiritualists have consolidated. The spirits themselves still remain extremely tenuous.

"Six border Korean towns have been sacked by the Russians." Cossacked?

Equal to Them All.

The night has a thousand eyes. And you life but two of the trails are. But really I shouldn't advise. My friend, that you.

Draw any conclusions neat; You can bet your socks That she has the thousand beat By a million blocks.

-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

THE HUMORISTS.

Quite Right.

"Life is full of trials," said the melancholy citizen.

"Yes," answered Mr. Gratton Grabb, "and the worst of it is that whole crowd of the trials are resulting in convictions."-Washington Star.

His Opportunity.

Scribner-In declining my poems the editor said I had no literary ability and advised me to go in for something else.

Fenelon-Did he suggest anything? Scribner-Yes, told me to try my hand at a popular novel.-Judge.

The Surprise Feature.

Askem-Did you hear about the surprise recent given by Mr. De Spoute, the elocutionist, last Thursday night?

Grabbit-No. What was the surprise feature?

Askem-None of the invited guests showed up. -Baltimore American.

A Better Scheme.

The young clergyman was under the impression that there had been some criticism because he was called to examine the workings of the railway branches of the Young Men's Christian Association for the immediate introduction of the service at division points of the railways of all Russia.-Harper's Weekly.

New Tuition Plan at Harvard.

Owing to a deficit this year in the finances of Harvard University, the corporation has been obliged to impose upon the student body one of the most stringent measures taken in recent years. As against the cash-payment system in vogue at the present time, whereby the first term bill, consisting of two-thirds of the annual charges, has been payable on or before Feb. 21, and the second, containing the balance of charges, on or before Oct. 10, of the next academic year, the students will be required to pay the entire sum of their tuition fees for the year within two weeks of the opening of the college term, and the remainder before the beginning of the second half year. If they fail to pay these dues, a specified day they shall be deprived of all privileges or services of the university "until their financial relations with the university are satisfactorily arranged with the bursar." For other bills due the university, such as rent of cottages, dormitories and board and incidental bills, a shorter time will be given the students for meeting them.-Springfield Republican.

First School Farm in New York City.

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And breeches to William R. Hearst. It was a bold proceeding, but it was regular, and those who do not like it will have to submit or kick out of the traces.-Lafayette Journal.

Check-book Hearst is perhaps now sorry that he originated the idea of clothing Republican leaders in cartoons in suits made of checks. If Hearst were a candidate for office who literally bought his strength, Hearst is the man. -Starke County Republican.

The Hearst noise in this State is made from surface wind. Down deep in the Democratic mind there is no responsive echo to the appeals of the Hearst management. Messrs. Henderson and Neal are obliged to make a noise-the Hearst managers expect some music from this quarter, since the State has been invaded and put in their hands. The people believe that these gnomes are under laws that it is altogether unlikely that any presidential bureau, as aggressive as the Hearst piece of furniture is showing itself to be, can be run without a lubricant of some sort, and hence the force of the Henderson output of argument is not showing itself to be very effective upon the public mind.-Martinsville Democrat.

The Review sincerely regrets the apparent sentiment in Elkhart for Hearst. This regret is not based on partisan prejudice, but on the fact that the Review would oppose any Democratic candidate for the presidency. Hearst represents not but demagoguery, uncertainty of motive, instability of purpose, satisfaction with low ideals of government, immature development of the Hearst management. Messrs. Henderson and Neal represents nothing good, nothing elevating, nothing useful to class, section or Nation. He plans only for temporary success and does not look ahead to what may come in the future. He would never be steady by responsibility nor sobered by necessity. He would be unsafe in policy and destructive in effort.-Elkhart Review.

Soldier or Sprig.

I big the joys of soft and saddy spring; (I sig them through the daisies.) A weeb warb We teder to her spigg, verdal charb; (She dedes the warph, the rold's of the wig; The time that I dede, there's nothin' to sig.)

'Uped the air, ad everything here blows- The pik adebbed, the pikade, the pikade. The Easter boddid id Dorth-adebbed. The frogs are id the pod-adebbed (id the throat). The yug sprig laddid id the daisies. The yug sprig laddid id the daisies. The yug sprig laddid id the daisies.

A byrid gades of iddeuth doid; Ad by the stove, id witter faddid thigs; I ped this soddid ere by figgers freeze! -Lile.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Russian Railway Schools.

The railway schools of Russia are among the most interesting of all nations. When the great Siberian Railway is completed, it will form a practical westward continuation of the American trunk line, connected by international ferries in the form of gigantic steamship lines. It was the construction of the wonderful Siberian Railway which largely internationalized Russia, turned its attention to the education of children.

At the latest report Russia was teaching 6,000 children of railway men all branches of modern railway construction and operation. Russia recently sent two eminent ministers of affairs to this country to examine the workings of the railway branches of the Young Men's Christian Association for the immediate introduction of the service at division points of the railways of all Russia.-Harper's Weekly.

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